

Minutes of the Public Meeting of the Frederick County Ethics Commission

Wednesday, September 9, 2020

Present: Ernest A. Heller, Chair
Stephen K. Hess, Vice-Chair
Deborah L. Lundahl, Commission Member
Rev. Douglas P. Jones, Commission Member
Deidre R. Davidson, Commission Member
Dr. Anna Johnson-Winegar, Commission Member
M. Shane Canfield, Commission Member
James Stanker, Alternate Commission Member

Absent: None

Secretary: Andrew J. Ford, Assistant County Attorney

The Frederick County Ethics Commission meeting started at approximately 7:00 p.m. on September 9, 2020, via WebEx which was streamed simultaneously on Facebook Live.

Agenda and Minutes.

MOTION: Ms. Davidson moved approve the Agenda. Mr. Hess seconded the motion, which was unanimously approved.

The draft minutes from the August 10, 2020, public meeting and the August 12, 2020 administrative function meeting were emailed to the members before the meeting.

MOTION: Ms. Davidson made a motion to approve the minutes. Rev. Jones seconded the motion, which was approved unanimously.

Annual Report.

Discussion of the Commission's annual report to the County Executive and County Council and Certification. Mr. Hess moved to amend the discussion regarding financial disclosures in the August 10, 2020 minutes to delete the sentence related to rental information. Rev. Jones seconded the motion, which was unanimously approved.

2021 Legislative Considerations.

The Commission discussed the July 30, 2020 Letter from County Executive requesting any recommendations for legislative considerations for the upcoming Maryland General Assembly. No recommendations were made.

Review of Financial Disclosure Statements.

The members of the Commission discussed the status of the review of financial disclosure statements. Five commissioners have submitted written reports on the financial statements reviewed. These comments will be shared with the other commissioners. Mr. Heller discussed concern regarding the use of limited liability companies by employees and desire to make sure that the form captures all necessary information. Mr. Ford indicated that he would look into past concerns and report back to the Commission. Ms. Winegar indicated that the forms were completed much better this year than last year. Mr. Hess reiterated his desire to see an exception report and increased automation to increase efficiency both the completion and review of the statements. Mr. Canfield did not see anything nefarious about LLC.

Next meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, Oct 14, 2020.

Mr. Hess made a motion to adjourn. Rev. Jones seconded the motion, which was unanimously approved.

The Ethics Commission adjourned its meeting at approximately 7:30 p.m.

/s/

Andrew J. Ford
Assistant County Attorney